

Homicide in Connecticut

Homicides are a major cause of intentional injury death in Connecticut. To better understand the problem in our state, the Office of Injury Prevention actively tracks homicides occurring in CT or among CT residents in/out-of-state and their circumstances using the Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System (CTVDRS).

According to 2016 preliminary data, 87 homicides occurred in Connecticut—**61% involved the use of a firearm and 76% of the victims were male**. Where the circumstances of the incident are known, an argument and commission of another crime, such as robbery or assault, were top contributing factors in the homicides.

KEY POINTS:

- **87 homicides occurred in CT in 2016, preliminary data show**
- **Age-adjusted rate: 2.4 homicides per 100,000 population vs. 5.7 in the US (2015)**
- **76% were males—56% were non-Hispanic black**
- **Most frequent circumstances noted:**
 - **Argument**
 - **Assault**
 - **Robbery**
 - **Drug Trade**

Characteristics of Connecticut Homicide Victims

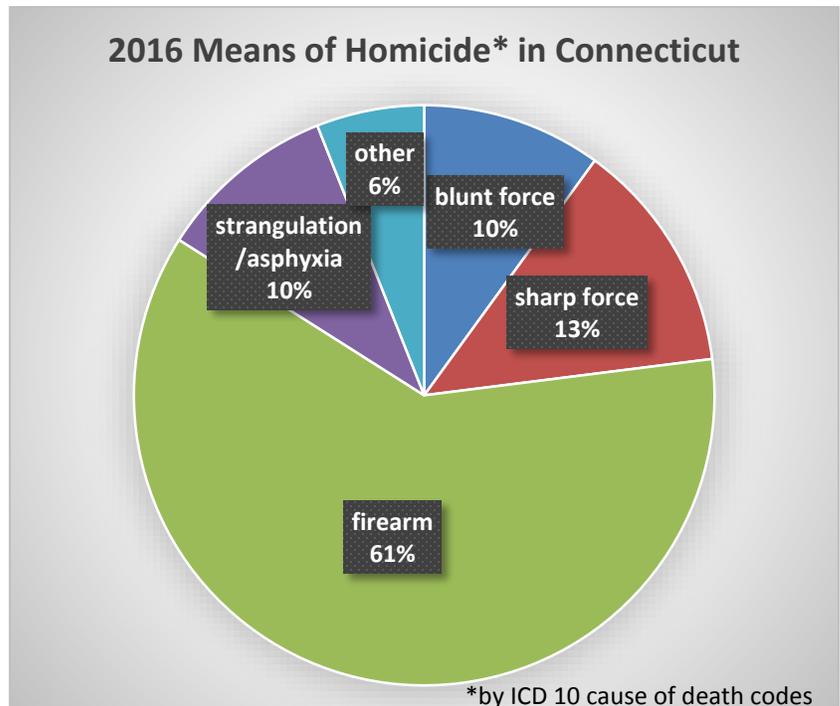
- 62 (71%) of the 87 victims who died from homicide were males
- Of the male victims, 56% were non-Hispanic black, 24% were non-Hispanic white and 20% were Hispanic
- 49% of the homicide victims were non-Hispanic black; 85% were males
- Victims' ages ranged from 2 months to 94 years, with an average age of 34 years, and 24% occurred in the 20-24 year-old age group
- Victims under the age of 17 accounted for 6 of the 87 homicides—67% were male and 50% were fatally injured in a home. Ages ranged from 2 months to 11 years, with an average age of 4 years

2016 - Number of Homicides in Connecticut, by Age and Sex



Means and Place of Homicide

- 61% of all homicides involved the use of a firearm—83% of these occurred in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven or Waterbury
- 71% of male victims died from gunshot wounds
- 60% of female victims died from either strangulation or gunshot wounds
- 73% of the victims who died from sharp force trauma were male—75% occurred during an argument



Violence Prevention

Intimate Partner Homicides

Of the 18 women who died by homicide, 67% were fatally injured in their own homes—70% of these women suffered intimate partner violence; 58% had been strangled or stabbed and 25% died from gunshot wounds.

Intimate partner homicides are predictable and preventable. The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and for the agencies serving them. To help prevent intimate partner homicides, the CCADV partnered with law enforcement to adopt the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). For more information, please visit <http://www.ctcadv.org>.

Gun Violence Reduction

Project Longevity is a focused deterrence gun violence reduction strategy in which law enforcement, social service providers and community members conduct meetings with members of violent street groups to deliver a unified message—Gun violence must stop. There is help for those who want it, but swift legal consequences will face those who choose to continue the acts of violence. For more information, please visit www.project-longevity.org.

For more information about CTDVRS, please visit us at www.ct.gov/dph/ctvdrs.

Contact Information

Office of Injury Prevention

Community, Family Health and Prevention Section

Connecticut Department of Public Health

Phone: 860-509-8251

Injury Office Webpages: www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention and www.ct.gov/dph/ctvdrs